

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated hyperthermostable protease, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a functional equivalent of said hyperthermostable protease.

2. An isolated hyperthermostable protease, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 or a functional equivalent of said hyperthermostable protease.

3. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a hyperthermostable protease, which polynucleotide hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein hybridization is carried out by incubating in 6XSSC at 50°C and washing with 2XSSC at 37°C.

4. A method for preparing a hyperthermostable protease, comprising culturing a transformant containing the polynucleotide of claim 3, and harvesting a hyperthermostable protease from the culture.

5. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a hyperthermostable protease, which polynucleotide hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, wherein hybridization is carried out by incubating in 6XSSC at 50°C and washing with 2XSSC at 37°C.

6. A method for preparing a hyperthermostable protease, comprising culturing a transformant containing the polynucleotide of claim 5, and harvesting a hyperthermostable protease from the culture.